

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated September 29, 2011 within three months. Claims 1-46 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-46. Applicants cancel claim 7 without prejudice to filing one or more claims having similar subject matter. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 7. Additionally, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in independent claims 34 and 39.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 43 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kanbara (US Patent No. 5,689,737). Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections, but Applicants amend certain claims without prejudice or disclaimer in order to clarify the patentable aspects of certain claims and to expedite prosecution.

In particular, Applicants incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 7 into independent claims 1 and 43. Amended claim 1 (and similarly independent claim 43) now recites:

“...a locus calculating section for obtaining locus information indicating a locus of the shaking motion of the image pickup apparatus based on at least the shaking motion detection signal output from the shaking motion detecting section, wherein the locus calculating section determines whether or not an amount of temporal change in the shaking motion of the image pickup apparatus is larger than a predetermined threshold value, and determines a number of samples in accordance with the determination result”

Applicants also assert that Kanbara does not teach or suggest the aforementioned features. Instead, Kanbara relies on “the film is read by a scanner such that the image data and the locus data recorded in the above fashion are numerized”. Therefore, instead of sampling based on if the amount of temporal change in the shaking motion being greater than a threshold, Kanbara samples each frame as a single sample without relying on the temporal change.

In the claimed invention, during a period in which the amount of change in the output values of the angle velocity detecting sections **101a** and **101b** (i.e., the amount of temporal change in the shaking motion of the image pickup apparatus **1**) is normal, a sampling process is performed at the normal sample frequency f_s . During a period in which the temporal change amount is large, a sampling process is performed more finely at double the normal sample frequency (i.e., $2f_s$).

During a period in which the temporal change amount is small, a sampling process is performed more roughly at half the normal sample frequency (i.e., $f_s/2$). In other words, the sample

frequency (i.e. number of samples) at which a sampling process is performed is determined based on the amount of temporal change in the shaking motion of the image pickup apparatus 1 (see, e.g., page 73, line 27 - page 74, line 7 of the original specification).

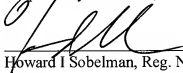
Applicants assert that an advantage of such feature is that the storage space can be more efficiently utilized (e.g., fewer data needs to be stored when the temporal change amount is small), and the locus information can be obtained more accurately (e.g., more data is obtained when the temporal change amount is large). Furthermore, since the sample frequency varies in accordance to the amount of temporal change, there is no need to increase the sample frequency for the entire period, thereby reducing the power consumption (see, e.g., page 74, lines 9-21, and page 83, line 30-33 of the original specification). For at least the above reasons, Applicants assert that amended claims 1 and 43 are novel and inventive over the prior art.

Moreover, dependent claims 2-6, 8-33, 35-38, 40-42 and 44-46 variously depend from independent claims 1, 34, 39 and 43. Therefore, Applicants assert that dependent claims 2-6, 8-33, 35-38, 40-42 and 44-46 are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above for differentiating independent claims 1, 34, 39 and 43, as well as in view of their own respective features.

The Examiner objects claims 2-42 and 44-46 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully disagree, but to expedite prosecution, Applicants incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 7 into independent claims 1 and 43.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **19-2814**. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned, if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: November 22, 2011

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